

Missouri Market Development Program FY2009 Financial Assistance Projects

In Fiscal Year 2009, the Missouri Market Development Program awarded \$300,000 to 6 Missouri businesses. These projects propose to create 22 new jobs and divert more than 98,000 tons of waste annually from Missouri landfills.

Thomason Brothers, Inc. (Mansfield) was awarded \$50,000 to purchase a centrifuge costing \$100,000. The centrifuge will enable the company to recover components of the waste food products, including vegetable oil, paper and plastic that would otherwise be sent to landfills. The recovered vegetable oil will be sold to bio-diesel manufacturers to produce fuel while the food solids will be sold to a company that produces animal food products. Food packaging components will also be recovered and sold. Thomason Brothers was formed in 2005 to produce biodiesel, but during its R&D phase proved the technological and economic feasibility of their process. The company has constructed a 15,000 square foot building in Mansfield and has begun operation. Thomason Brothers anticipates diverting 11,700 tons from the waste stream annually and creating nine new full time employee positions with this project.

Swift Construction Company, Inc. (Joplin) was awarded \$50,000 to purchase equipment costing \$105,000. The equipment would enable the company to expand its collection and processing of recovered asphalt roofing shingles that will be used in the construction of roads. Swift Construction is a family owned business primarily involved in the production of asphalt and paving. The company currently collects and grinds shingle waste from local manufacturers and roofers but intends to establish collection yards in multiple locations statewide. Ground roof scrap can provide 5% to 7% of the asphalt oil needed by Missouri's twenty asphalt producing plants and there are currently only two other Missouri entities processing this material for reuse. Swift Construction anticipates diverting 75,000 tons from the waste stream annually and creating one new full time employee position with this project.

Double G Brands, Inc. (Pacific) was awarded \$50,000 to purchase a smoker costing \$125,000 that will enable the company to divert waste ham bones from the landfill by making them safe for pet consumption and sale. Double G currently processes hams and supplies several major grocery chains, disposing up to 4,000 pounds of waste bones per week. Previously used alternatives to disposal are no longer feasible and as the company continues to grow, the amount of waste bones generated will also grow. Marketing of the pet-safe bone will be geared initially to local grocers. The company anticipates diverting 100 tons from the waste stream annually and creating 4-5 new full time employee positions with this project.

Asphalt Products Inc. (Jefferson City) was awarded \$50,000 to purchase a stationary cold feed plant with conveyors costing \$95,000. The new equipment will enable the company to introduce ground shingles into its existing asphalt plant. The project will allow for the use of tear-off shingles from area homes and will provide a cost savings over disposal for contractors. Asphalt Products, Inc. was formed in 1992 and operates plants in both Jefferson City and Rolla. The company makes several types of Hot-Mix and provides asphalt for city, county and state projects as well as private work. API anticipates diverting 10,000 tons from the waste stream annually and creating one part-time employee position with this project.

Cedar Ridge Innovations, LLC, (Springfield) was awarded \$50,000 to purchase a carpet shearing saw system costing \$68,000. The equipment will enable the company to process scrap carpet by separating the face fiber from the backing. Cedar Ridge Innovations began operations in 2007 and works with Shaw Industries, the world's largest carpet manufacturing in recycling certain types of carpet. By removing the fibers from the backing on other types of carpet, Cedar Ridge can also produce a feedstock for plastic manufacturing. At this time, the closest carpet shearing operation is in Minnesota and Cedar Ridge Innovations anticipates diverting 672 tons from the waste stream annually and creating five new full time employee positions with this project.

Coon Manufacturing, Inc. (Spickard) was awarded \$50,000 to purchase and rebuild a rotational molding system costing \$98,060.83. The new equipment will be fully automated to eliminate common operator errors such as oven temperature and cooking time. Coon Manufacturing, a past Program participant, has been manufacturing highly durable polyethylene products using a rotational molding process since 1982. At the encouragement of the EIERA and the Department of Natural Resources, the company began using 100% post-consumer plastics as feedstock for most of its products in 1993. Coon's product line is extensive and includes agricultural items, boat dock floats, septic tanks and many others. With Coon's current system, every step of the rotationally molding operation is being done manually. With eight new products signed on since December of 2008, the current system is in operation three shifts, five days a week. The new machine will enable the company to increase production by twenty percent per each twenty-four hour period and allow for better quality control. New products that will be manufactured with the new system include traffic cones, bale bonnets, port-a-potties, personal water craft lifts, and an insulated skirting material for mobile homes. Coon Manufacturing estimates they will divert an additional 665 tons from the waste stream and create two new full time employee jobs with this project.